

# Earthquake and aftershocks: electoral implications of a natural disaster in a multilevel political setting

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## Abstract

Research on the electoral consequences of natural disasters has increased in recent years. This paper adds to this literature by examining two questions: do voters' reactions to a particular natural disaster depends on the type of election at stake? And for how long do the effects last? In order to tackle these questions, this paper exploits the aftermath of an 1998 earthquake which hit the Azores archipelago, which has a multi-level political system. The results idn

## 1 Introduction

How do electorates respond to natural disasters?

**Why do we need a further study on this?** → most studies focus on a) short-term effects and b) national/local elections. By addressing multi-level we can probe the extent to which electors can behave in a sophisticated way or not.

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This is a work in progress, and feedback is most welcome. The most recent version is available at [https://joaocancela.github.io/pdf/earthquake\\_and\\_aftershocks.pdf](https://joaocancela.github.io/pdf/earthquake_and_aftershocks.pdf).

## 2 Literature review

The electoral implications of natural disasters are . On the one hand,

Natural disasters are becoming a setting

Examining Italian data from 1993 to 2015, Masiero and Santarossa (2021) show that destructive earthquakes significantly increase the vote share of mayors in affected areas. Their analysis points to the combination of two mechanisms that prop up the magnitude of incumbency advantage. On the one hand, mayors are able to lead relief and recovery efforts; on the other, they benefit from much increased media attention.

(Achen and Bartels, 2016, 19)

Abney and Hill (1966, 2) (Abney and Hill, 1966, 2) Rudolph and Kuhn (2018)

## 3 The case

In July 9 1998 at 5.19 am a

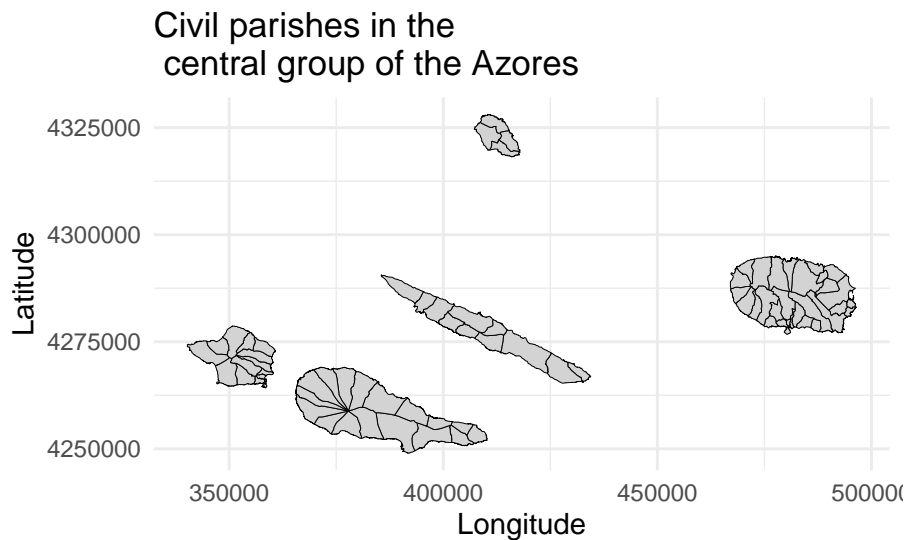


Figure 1: The area under study comprises 75 parishes scattered over 9 municipalities in 5 islands. This map was produced using geographic data made publicly available by the Portuguese Directorate General for Territory (<https://www.dgterritorio.gov.pt/cartografia/cartografia-tematica/caop?language=en>).

## 4 Hypotheses

## 5 Data collection and processing

## 6 Analysis

### 6.1 Regression analysis

### 6.2 Regression analysis

## 7 Discussion

To be developed.

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